

On a new species of PROPALTICUS from New Guinea; by
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When working out some of the minute and difficult forms of Coleoptera found by Mr. Blackburn in the Hawaiian islands, one of the species that gave me most trouble was the insect I named *Propalticus oculatus* (Tr. Ent. Soc., Lon., 1879, p. 88). This little creature I found to be very different from any known form, but nevertheless I believed it to be, like a great number of other species, an introduction to the archipelago; my principal reason for this being that it has no congeners or near allies in the archipelago, whereas I believe it will be found that the truly aboriginal species of the islands always form clusters, or as it were, present us with a miniature fauna comparable in many respects, if not in all, with the faunæ of larger regions, such as New Zealand and Australia. I was not very surprised, therefore, when I received a few weeks since from my friend, the Rev. A. Matthews, of Gumley, a little beetle that had much puzzled him, and which I immediately recognized as a near ally of *Propalticus oculatus*. Mr. Matthews's specimen was captured by Mr. Wallace in New Guinea, and its preservation is due to Mr. Janson, who, at the time Mr. Matthews was preparing his monograph of the *Trichopterygidae*, forwarded this mite to him, thinking it might possibly have some connection with the family I have just named; Mr. Janson probably being led to this opinion by the minute size, and by the structure of the antennæ, and also by the fact that the creature had no special resemblance to anything else. With a view of recording that this genus is a Papuan one, I have briefly characterised the species and adopted the trivial name of *Jansoni*, proposed for it by Mr. Matthews. I will also take this opportunity of making an additional remark as to the systematic position of *Propalticus*, having the pleasure of recording the results of an examination

by Drs. Leconte and Horn of the *P. oculatus*. These distinguished savants quite agree with me in locating the genus in the family *Mycetophagide* near *Litargus*, but Dr. Leconte does not think my opinion that the great saltatorial powers of the species may be due to the peculiar form of the front legs is likely to prove correct, but rather opines that as in other jumping Coleoptera this act is more probably performed by the hinder limbs. He farther notes that in comparing the *P. oculatus* with the most convex of the North American species of *Litargus*—*L. balteatus*—he found the peculiar tibial spur to be equally developed in each. As regards the tarsi there must still remain some doubt. Dr. Horn considers them to be all four-jointed; Mr. Matthews sees the four posterior feet to be four-jointed, but queries the anterior as being only three-jointed. I could not quite satisfy myself about them but thought them to be all four-jointed, but that possibly there might be a fifth joint present. The probability is, therefore, that all are four-jointed.

Propalticus Jansoni, n. sp. Pl. II, fig. 1.

Brevis, latiusculus depressus, opacus, subtilissime punctatus, et pubescens, ferrugineus, pedibus pallide-testaceis, antennis tenuibus, clava elongata, laxè articulata, fusca; prothorace utrinque versus latus lineis elevatis duabus munito; elytris subtiliter trilineatis vel striatis. Long. $1\frac{1}{2}$, lat $\frac{7}{8}$ mm.

This little insect, though very similar to the Hawaiian *P. oculatus*, is very distinct from it, being very much smaller in size and of more depressed form, and having two linear markings on each side of the thorax parallel with its lateral margin; the striae of the elytra are very fine and may be readily overlooked, one is placed along the suture, one some little distance within the shoulder, the third being placed equidistantly from the other two. The peculiar head, eyes, antennae and front legs seen in the Hawaiian species are here almost exactly reproduced.

